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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1

COUNTRY USSR (Azerbaijan SSR)

DATE DISTR. 7 April 1951

SUBJECT Construction of a Hydro-Power Plant near Mingechaur

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 2
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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In August 1949 the stage of carrying out the previously reported WINGECHAU (47°03'E/40°45'N), Azerbaijan SSR, project was as follows:

1. The dam:

Excavating work (removing and washing away the soil to the rocky subsoil) on the south bank of the Kura River was almost completed; but at the larger building yard on the north bank, far from complete. According to construction plans, the dam is to be built from a small angle upstream. The proposed dimensions of the dam are: Length about 3,600 feet, bottom width 1,200 feet, height 210 feet, crest width 60 feet. Holes were drilled to a depth of 150 feet below the actual dam bottom. A cement lye was injected into these holes under pressure to fill and solidify the subsoil. This had been done only on the south bank. Structures and foundations for the new dam were erected only in the course of the new river bed.

2. New river bed:

a. The new river bed in which the Kura River is to flow, is about 200 to 250 feet north of the present river bed. Only a section about 3,000 feet long was excavated and the further course could not be determined. Only a small part of the excavated section was concreted. Construction of the new river bed was started in 1947. By extensive blasting a hole about 300 feet long, 120 feet wide and 45 feet deep was made. The section so far completed was about 150 feet wide at the bottom, 75 feet deep at the valley side and 150 feet deep at the mountain side. The sides were sloping, the width at the top far exceeding that at the bottom.

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Auth: 128 73/2

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b. Foundations for the projected dam have been under construction on the bottom of the new river bed since 1948. These were tessellated concrete bases

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Each of these bases was constructed in eight days and nights. Only the level of the medium new river bed was exceeded by iron fittings about 10 feet high. Somewhat up-stream of where the dam is to cross the new river bed, three parallel pipes were concreted in the bottom of the river bed and another two pipes were placed across the top.

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the water is to be carried by these pipes.

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c. For further excavation of the new river bed, dredges were used and a standard gauge railroad track constructed from the west on the bottom of the river bed.

3. Canal for unknown purpose

a. Perpendicularly to the Kura River, a canal about a mile long and 180 feet wide was constructed which, in accordance with the rising terrain, rose slightly to the north, but the gradient of the canal was not equal to that of the terrain so that its banks gradually became higher to the north. Only excavation work had been done on this canal.

b. Construction of the final 200-foot section adjoining the Kura River had not been started as this plot was used for the railroad line leading across. The end of the canal was connected with the river by underground delivery pipes which, due to the dumping of removed earth masses, was sanding up.

4. The power plant could not be located. Presumably it was to be on the north bank of the Kura River, down-stream from the dam since a large building site was there.

5. Other small building sites are indicated in the annexed location sketch.

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Comment:

a. This report gives an excellent survey on the latest development of the hydro power plant under construction.

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b. A photostated photograph published by a Soviet periodical in the summer of 1949 is enclosed as Annex 2. The projected final state of the plant is shown in the picture, the lower part of which shows the terrain conditions existing before construction was started. According to this magazine, the projected initial capacity of the plant is 150,000 kwh which is to be doubled by 1952. It is evident from the picture that this project is very large.

c. From comparing the annexed sketch with the photostat, it shows that the initial stage of the plant under construction. The dark-shaded section (Item No. 1a) of Annex 1 shows the dam rising up-stream as displayed in the photograph also.

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(1) The excavated strip designated as Item No. 2 apparently is not the actual new river bed . According to the picture, the new river bed will run from the north end of the dam around the mountain and, presumably, join the original Kura River bed further to the east.

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(2) The N-S canal indicated as Item No. 5 can be distinctly identified in the photograph. Together with the new river arm, it will presumably serve as a spillway to regulate the storage of water in the reservoir and safely discharge the maximum flood.

- 2 Annexes:
1. Construction of Hydro-Power plant near MINGECHAU (Blueprint).
 2. Picture of the Soviet Hydro-Power plant near MINGECHAU (photograph).

Legend to Annex 1:

1. Projected dam crest line, about 3,600 feet long
- 1a. Projected dam flank
2. Partially completed section of the new river bed, about 3,000 feet long and 150 feet wide at the bottom
3. Foundations for the proposed dam
4. Five pipes concreted in the bottom of the new river bed
5. Excavated canal, perpendicular to the Kura River, information on purpose not available
6. Final canal section with several water delivery pipes, not yet excavated
7. Gravel and sand bunkers from which the concrete produced by large concrete mixers was conveyed by belts to the building sites in the new river bed
8. Concrete factory
9. Main office
10. Storage shed
11. Forge
12. Compressed air station
13. Transformer station and terminal of high tension line
14. Gravel pit

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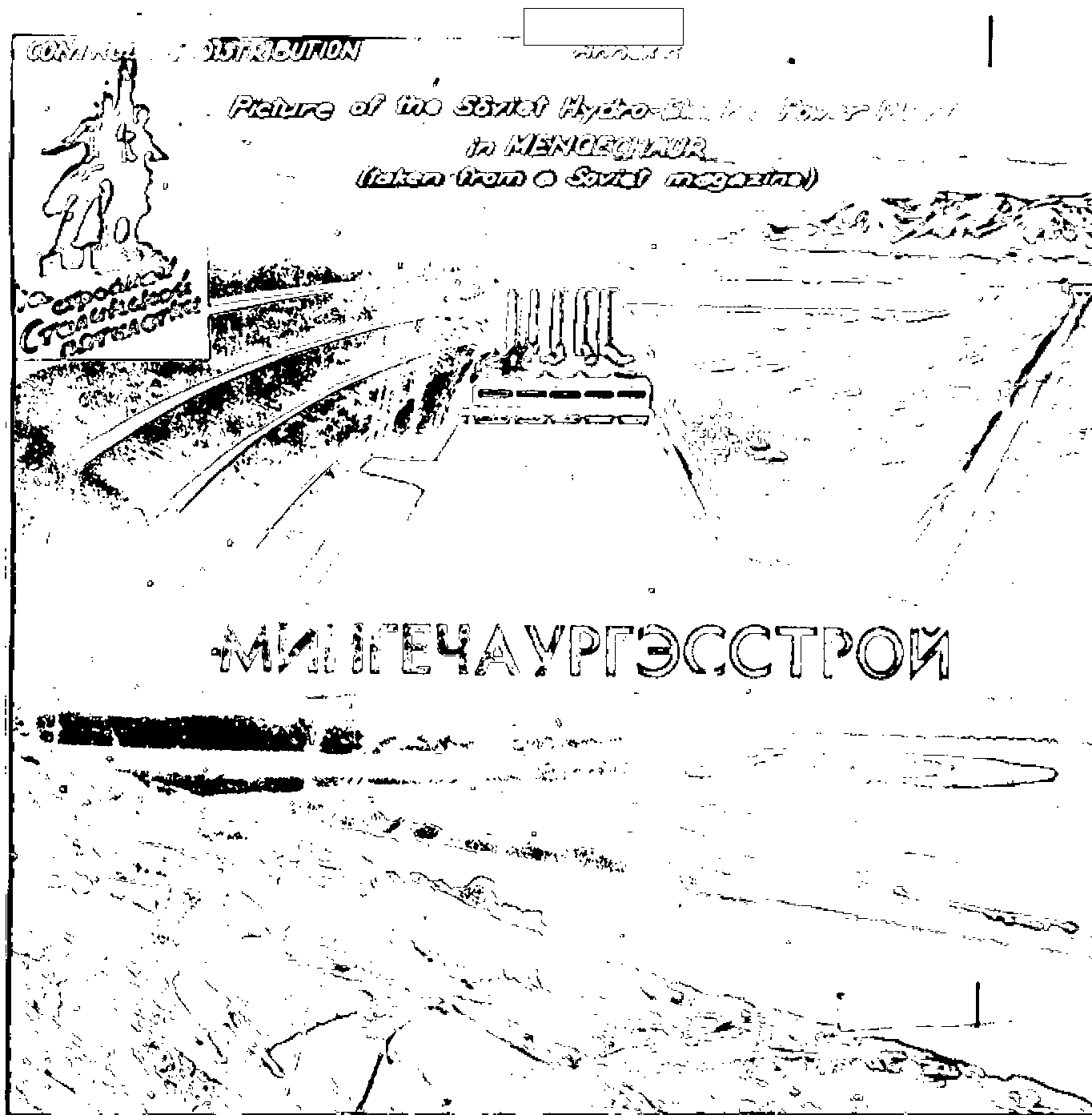
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15. Lake, about 3,000 x 900 feet, with inhabited, wooded island
16. Engine house
17. Water pumping station for soil washing procedure
18. Pumping station and water mains to collective farms
19. Shop producing fittings for the building sites
20. Outdoor transformer plant
21. PW hospital.
22. PW Camps No. 7444/1 and 7444/2
23. "Rabochi 1" Workers' Settlement
24. Brickyard
25. "Brom-Combine" factory producing metal structures
26. Courtyard with carpentry and stone-pressing shop
27. Sawmill
28. Pontoon bridge
29. Railroad bridge
30. Temporary settlement for civilian workers, inhabited
31. MINGECHAUR railroad station
32. Two oil basins
33. Power plant with
 - a. Large-size turbine house
 - b. Railroad generator and
 - c. Small-size turbine house
34. PW Camp 7444/3
35. New bakery
36. Oxygen plant
37. "Rabochi 2" Workers' Settlement
38. Small farm
39. Large farm
40. Train.

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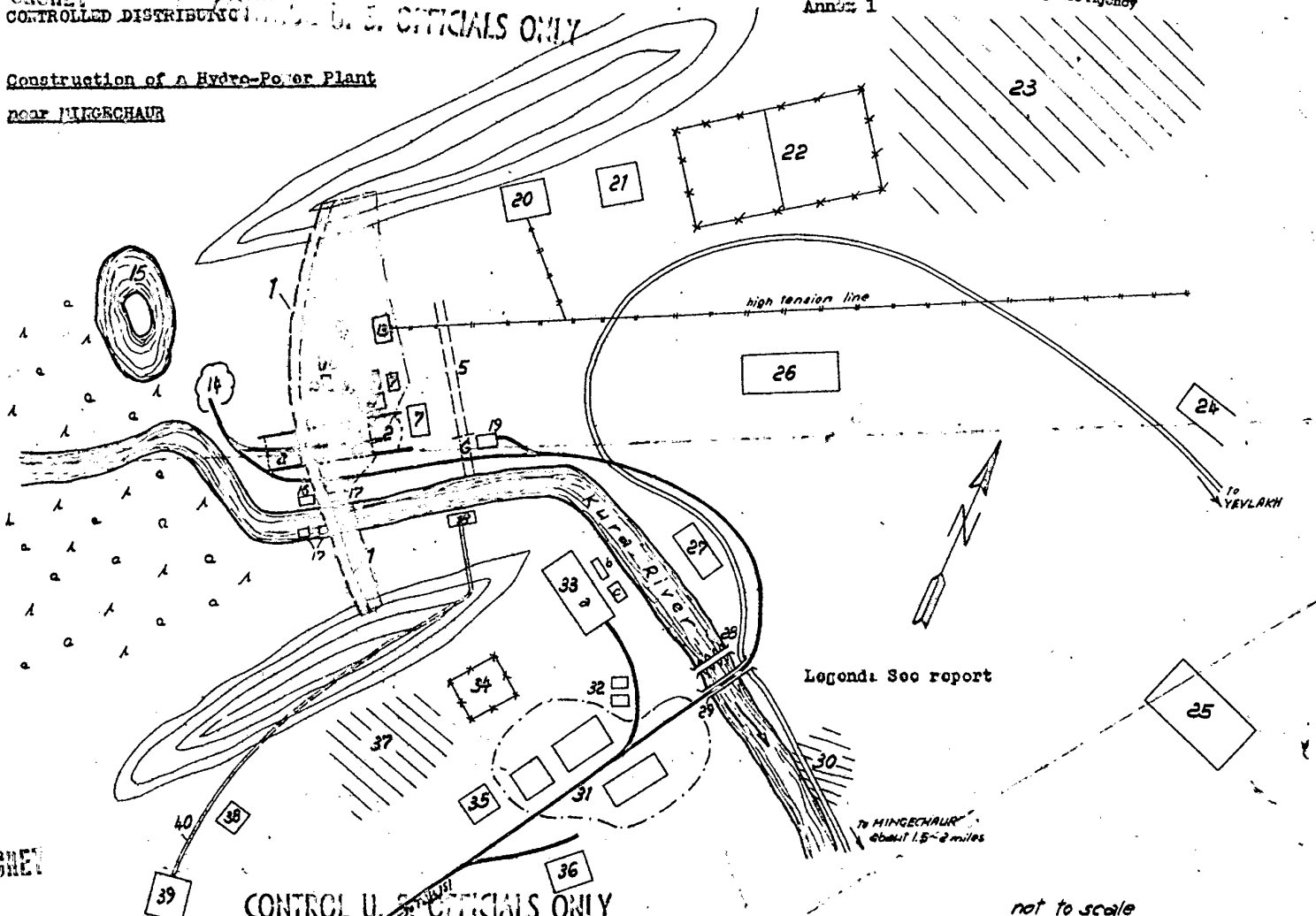
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Construction of a Hydro-Power Plant
near MINGCHAUR

Annex 1



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